



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Kiyoshige SHIBAZAKI et al.

Group Art Unit: 2612

Application No.: 09/435,824

Examiner: L. Nguyen

Filed: November 8, 1999

Docket No.: 103210.01

For: IMAGE-CAPTURING ELEMENT, IMAGE-CAPTURING CIRCUIT FOR
PROCESSING SIGNAL FROM IMAGE-CAPTURING ELEMENT, IMAGE-
CAPTURING DEVICE, DRIVING METHOD OF IMAGE-CAPTURING ELEMENT

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Technology Center 2600

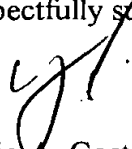
Sir:

In reply to the April 15, 2004 Restriction Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect Group I, claims 1-19 and 26-30, with traverse.

It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims 1-30 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time

Date: June 15, 2004

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